

United States Department of Agriculture



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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 180-4-4

SUBJECT: CPA – SOIL CONDITIONING INDEX

Purpose: To distribute this software to the Area Resource Conservationists in Minnesota.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

The Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) is a prediction tool that can be used in conservation planning to estimate whether applied conservation practices will result in maintained or increased levels of soil organic matter. Use of the SCI is listed in the criteria of several of our practice standards, including Conservation. Crop Rotation (328), Residue Management (329A, B and C) and Cover Crop (340).

The SCI is in the form of an excel spreadsheet, which is attached to this email. Information about the SCI can be found in the National Agronomy Manual:

(http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/M/M_190_NAM.pdf), in section 508, Soils. Information can also be found in the Soil Quality – Agronomy Technical Note No. 16: http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/TN/TN_ECS_16_3_A.pdf.

Instructions are also included in the spreadsheet itself. The priority of training field staff on the use of this tool will be decided by each area. Questions about the SCI can be directed to Robin Martinek, State Agronomist, at 651-602-7866. Questions about NRCS policy can be directed to Paul Flynn, State Resource Conservationist.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

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